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Robert Newton Adams





R. H. Adams

Military Order
of the
Loyal Legion of the United States
Commandery of the State of Minnesota

In Memoriam

Companion

Robert Newton Adams

Died at

St. Paul, Minnesota

March 24, 1914

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On

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Robert N. Adams was born on a farm in Fayette County, Ohio, September 15th, 1835, and died at his home in the City of St. Paul, Minnesota, March 24th, 1914, in his seventy-ninth year.

He was the son of Albert and Nancy Coffey Adams and through them inherited that traditional firmness of purpose and uprightness of character inherent in the old Scotch Presbyterian stock. Until his twentieth year he resided with his parents assisting them in the care of the farm. During the winter months he attended the district school located near the old home.

From 1856 to 1858 he attended the Greenfield Academy located at Greenfield, Ohio. In the fall of 1858 he entered the freshman class at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and at the close of his junior year was transformed in the twinkling of an eye from a student to a soldier.

At the outbreak of the war Oxford was pre-eminently an educational town, there being located there the Miami University and three female seminaries having in all an attendance of one thousand students. When the call to arms was sounded Robert N. Adams was among the first to respond. With a number of his fellow students he joined the University Rifles. This organization became Company B of the 20th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which company Adams served as a private from April 18th until mustered out August 18th, 1861. On the 30th of August, 1861, he was commissioned captain of Company C, 81st Ohio Volunteer Infantry with which regiment his military services were closely identified until the close of the war.

From September 1861 to March 1862, the Regiment served in the Department of Missouri under General Fremont and was transferred to the Army of the Tennessee in time to participate in the Battle of Shiloh, April 6th and 7th, 1862.

The principal battles and operations in which General Adams participated were Shiloh, Corinth, Bear Creek, Ringold, Buzzard Roost Gap, Dalton, Lays Ferry, Resaca, Mariette, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Ezra Chapel, Jonesboro,—where he was wounded and his horse shot,—Love Joy Station, the March to the Sea, Siege of Savannah, Campaign of the Carolinas, Bentonville, Occupation of Goldsboro, Advance on Raleigh, March to Washington via Richmond, and the Grand Review.

He was mustered out July 13, 1865, having served as private, captain, major,—but not mustered,—lieutenant-colonel, colonel and brevet Brigadier-General for a period of four years and three months.

At the Battle of Shiloh Captain Adams behaved with conspicuous gallantry, being in command of the regiment a part of the time fighting on three parts of the field and capturing a Confederate battery where now stands a monument to the valor of his regiment. In the month of May following he was promoted to Major and Lieutenant-Colonel, both commissions dating from December 1st, 1861. August 8th, 1864, he was commissioned Colonel of his regiment and on the 13th of March 1865 was breveted Brigadier-General for “meritorious service during the war.”

On the March to the Sea he commanded the Second Brigade 4th Division, 15th Army Corps, and for some time prior thereto commanded the Second Brigade, 2nd Division, 16th Army Corps.

His military career was one of unbroken honor and distinction. At the time he entered the army he was in the prime of his young manhood. He was of fine appearance and soldierly carriage and was able, without serious interruption, to endure the hardships of active service for more than four years. His moral character was a fitting comple-

ment to his towering form and it is not probable that he had his superior in either army as to purity of purpose and devotion to duty. His courage stood the severest tests. It was not periodical or of the blustering type, but steadfast and securely anchored in a soul that trusted alike in the living God whether in the storm of battle or in the quiet of the sanctuary.

At the close of the war General Adams entered upon the study of theology, a design which he had cherished before entering the war, and in 1869 graduated from the Western Theological Seminary at Alleghany, Pa. For forty-five years he was a minister and home missionary in the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America. His acquaintance extended to all parts of the country, north, south, east and west. His pastorates were as follows:

McArthur, Ohio,	1869-1872
Ottawa, Kansas,	1872-1875
Waverly, Ohio,	1876-1880
Fergus Falls, Minn.	1880-1886

In 1886 he was appointed Superintendent of Home Missions work in connection with the Presbyterian Church, which position he held for twenty years.

In 1906 he was promoted to Field Secretary under the Home Mission Board, and assigned to the Northwestern district, comprising a number of the northwestern states including Minnesota.

After five years service he was compelled by reason of illness and advanced age to resign this important office. He was, however, continued as Field Secretary Emeritus, and continued to render such services as his health and strength would permit. On the day of his death he was at his office as usual busily engaged in the preparation of an im-

portant report connected with the work of the church, so he died in the harness, the summons coming without a moment's warning. To him, however, no notice was necessary for whether in war or in peace he was always at his post of duty, prepared to live or die.

No figure in the Presbyterian Church could better represent the idea of militant Christianity than Rev. Robert N. Adams, D. D., for during his long service as a leader of the Presbyterian Home Mission forces in the Northwest he continued an unceasing campaign against all sorts of social evils and material discouragements.

His promotion to Field Secretary by the Board of Home Missions after he had reached the age of seventy, to supervise the work in the Dakotas and Nebraska, as well as in his own state, was a deserved promotion on the field for gallantry, and was not less a merit-won honor than his promotions for gallantry as a soldier.

General Adams became a member of the Minnesota Commandery of the Loyal Legion April 12th, 1893. He held the office of Chaplain for 16 years, and was Commander from May 11th, 1897 to May 10th, 1898. His entire official services as an officer in this Commandery covered a period of 17 years, which has never been equalled by any other member of the Commandery. He was a member of John A. Rawlins Post, Department of Minnesota, Grand Army of the Republic.

He was married December 27th, 1866, at Athens, Ohio, to Nellie W. Whipple, who died in 1900.

March 3rd, 1903, he married Mary C. Compton, a sister of the late Captain James Compton of the Commandery, who served on the staff of General Adams as Brigade Inspector. She survives him,

Of the first marriage two daughters were born, Mrs. Mabel A. Ankeny and Mrs. Maude Waterman, who survive him; also a grandson, Adams Ankeny.

This Commandery has numbered among its members many noble spirits, but none of finer mold and grain than General Robert N. Adams, and it is with a feeling of deep regret and profound personal sorrow that we pay this last tribute of love and respect to his memory.

Your Committee respectfully asks that this memorial be placed upon the records of this Commandery and that a copy thereof, duly certified, be sent to the widow of our deceased companion, with assurances of our deep sympathy for her and the surviving children in the sad bereavement that has come to them and to us.

ELL TORRANCE,
LEWIS A. GRANT,
JAMES H. DAVIDSON,
Committee.

A true copy of the Original Memorial, adopted by a rising vote of the Commandery of the State of Minnesota Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, at a stated meeting held April 14, 1914, at the Ryan Hotel, St. Paul, Minn.

ORTIN S. CLARK,
Recorder.

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